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Your FOIA request

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 To: CIA FOIA <cia_foia@ucia.gov>

Tue, Sep 6, 2016 at 4:06 PM

Hi Mr. Lavergne,

Thank you for your message. The issue that I'm looking into specifically is: to what extent US foreign economic development aid programs (including, but not limited to, those implemented by USAID) have been influenced by or have involved covert CIA activity, objectives or collaboration. There have been numerous documented instances and allegations over the years of various economic development programs, such as those of USAID, providing cover or operational support for non-development objectives such as foreign intelligence collection or regime influencing (revolutionary or counter-revolutionary) operations by the CIA. I'll provide both some older and newer examples:

1. In the 1963 hearings before a House Subcommittee on Appropriations, Senator Passman of Louisiana, leading the questioning of Teodoro Moscoso, Assistant Administrator of AID's Latin America Bureau and the US coordinator for the Alliance For Progress, explored the confluence of the commencement of aid programs in Latin America in 1952 with the four presidential assassinations in the region and the fact that "there have been governments overthrown in 13 Latin-American countries [during the period of 1952-1963]. Of interest may be the fact that in several countries—Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador—governments have been overthrown on at least two occasions..." And in the 1972 hearings before a House Subcommittee on Appropriations regarding the FY1973 AID budget for economic assistance, Moscoso's successor, Herman Kleine was questioned as to why AID funds were being used to provide grenades and ammunition as part of their "public safety" programs in Latin American countries such as Panama, as documented in the fiscal year procurement budgets for fiscal 1966 and 1967, and as to funds being used to "recruit, pay, organize and train military units" which Senator Proxmire described as outside of "the fundamental original mission of the public safety programs" and intended economic assistance. Both Mr. Klein and Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Charles Meyer were questioned specifically by Senator Proxmire on reports which had alleged "close ties between the public safety program in Latin America and the CIA."

Senator Proxmire: Can you clearly and unequivocally state there is and has been no direct relationship of cover for CIA in the public safety programs? He says that at least six members of the public safety mission in the Dominican Republic in 1967 were CIA agents.

Mr. Kleine: I am not in a position—

Mr. Meyer: I know nothing about it, Mr. Chairman...

2. A few months prior to democratically elected Jean-Bertrand Aristide being overthrown in the 1991 coup in Haiti, aid for "democracy promotion" directed to groups opposed to Aristide sharply increased, mainly through USAID and the National Endowment for Democracy, and there has been widespread speculation of CIA involvement in this process. Similar concerns of CIA involvement have been raised in the press regarding the documented USAID backed ZunZuneo program in Cuba.

3. On July 11, 2011, the news organization McClatchy broke what has become the widely reported story of the CIA's utilization of a joint USAID/Save the Children hepatitis B vaccination program in Pakistan to collect DNA evidence in the attempt to positively identify Osama bin Laden's whereabouts.

So, to your question of whether I am looking for records that may indicate that intelligence collection has been or is being used in these [Economic Development] programs, the answer is yes, but it is not limited to CIA activity only in pursuit of its primary mission of intelligence gathering and processing, but also encompasses its pursuit of other mission objectives as well, but still, through Economic Development programs.

Substantial evidence does exist for past CIA activity extending beyond the intelligence gathering and processing, such as documented in the declassified documents and cables planning the assassination of Patrice Lumumba (as detailed by authors Stephen Kinzer, Jim Rasenberger, Madeleine Kalb, and former CIA station chief in the DRC, Larry Devlin), and so my request "for all information, records and documents related in whole or in part to the Central Intelligence Agency's policy, involvement with, influence on, attempted or contemplated influence on, advice or other communications regarding the topic of U.S. Non-Military Economic Development Aid to Foreign States" is a request for which the resulting records may contain information regarding the pursuit of objectives which may well fall outside of the primary intelligence gathering and processing mission of the agency, but nonetheless has been or is being conducted through, or in collaboration with, economic development programs such as those of USAID.

Exhibit E

My goal is to be comprehensive in the collection of pertinent information from the agency on this subject, one that it is in the public interest and important for us to set the record straight on. I appreciate your help.

Thank you,
Hunter

[Quoted text hidden]